

## Claims

1. Particularly shaped articles constituted by silicon  
oxide, as such or suitably additivated, prepared by room  
5 temperature molding according to a process comprising:
  - preparation of a sol starting from a silicon alcoxide,  
or from a silicon alcoxide and at least a precursor of  
at least one of the additional elements;
  - hydrolysis of the sol obtained thereby;
  - 10 - addition of colloidal silica;
  - pouring the resulting mixture into the desired mould;
  - sol gelling and fast removal of the solid product;
  - gel drying;
  - 15 - gel densification by means of a thermal treatment at  
temperature ranging from 900°C to 1500°C.
2. Articles according to the preceding claim to be used as  
preforms for the optical fiber spinning.
3. Articles according to claim 2 characterized by a shape  
having a section selected from the ones reported in  
20 figure 1.
4. Articles according to claim 2 characterized by a shape  
selected from the ones reported in figure 2.